

FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1875.

The Black Death is lifting its horrid front in the far East once more.

Chief Clerk Avery of the Treasury Department has resigned.

The parish of Feliciana, La., is the scene of a new infidelity between the races.

Yellow fever has struck the Florida coast, and is raging with great virulence at Barrancas.

The taxable wealth of the city is prettily divided between German and American property holders.

Gold in still larger quantities found in the Black Hills. Miners flocking in rapidly.

We return our acknowledgments to Governor Hardin for his commission as an honorary member of the State Centennial Commission.

A high price for breadstuffs and no market for cotton will tend greatly to make the prosperity of the North and South again unfortunately unequal.

The promise of the British capitalists to Southern cotton growers of a profitable market for the panper products of England is one of the bates of the free trade league.

The money panic created in New York by the failure of the immense house of Duncan Sherman & Co., of which mention was made in our telegraphic column yesterday, will not unhappily result as disastrously as did that of nearly two years ago.

The horrible details of the Mountain Meadow Massacre continue to unfold themselves to the world through the trial of John D. Lee, the Mormon Bishop, at Beaver, Utah. The evidence seems to point conclusively to the fact that Brigham Young was a party to and directed the bloody enormity.

It is understood by the Governor and State authorities that the reports of General Bingham, which the newspapers have thus far published, will be notice to all the world of the worthless character of the certificates they condemn. To obtain money on them renders the person obtaining it liable to prosecution for obtaining money by false representations.

Of all the service claims for which the late Acting Paymaster-General issued certificates of indebtedness that have been examined by Adjutant-General Bingham not one has been found to be sustained by proofs in the Adjutant-General's office, or valid in any respect. In the issue of the certificates, if General Bingham is right, there was a total disregard of any restrictions on his power by the officer issuing them. In other words, false certificates were issued for every claim that has been thus far examined. We are told however, that this is an offence which the statute does not describe or punish. We cannot think the law so lame as this. Parties guilty of lighter offences are suffering "durance vile" in the hated garb of a convict. What other and worse was Bill Tweed's offence, for which he now languishes on Blackwell's Island?

A piece of criticism in which the JOURNAL indulged a few days since has very evidently been misunderstood. Like every other man, perhaps, the person whose acts we criticised because they were open to criticism, has his enemies. They mistook our meaning. They supposed we were uniting with them in their war upon him, and they have poured in upon us information regarding his past acts, for further points upon him. We are not of those who live in the dead past. With the ever living present is as much as we can find time and opportunity to deal. We have no war to make upon any one. It is within the capacity of every man to repent and abandon a wrong. It is the part of a public journal in this country to expose and freely criticise the errors of our officers and servants, and it is only where they refuse to listen to the words of the truth and right and defy the public conscience that they call upon their heads the inexorable censures of the press sustained by the popular voice.

Wheat has shot up in the past few days in Eastern markets at an unlooked for rate. It is regarded by some as a speculative advance. But when it is considered that almost the entire wheat crop of Europe has been destroyed by the unprecedented floods that have enveloped the country we may safely infer that the advance is a legitimate and permanent one. The reports from Washington of the returns as to the crop in this country may also be taken into account as justifying competitive prices. They show the con-

dition of spring and winter wheat together at about 82 per cent. of an average. The winter wheat including California averages 74 and spring wheat 96. The spring wheat States in the Northwest and Northeast are generally in a high condition of a wheat era. The South, Atlantic and Gulf States are generally above the average, but in the Middle States the condition is very low, New York ranging down to 45. West of the Alleghenies the prospect is better, the State averages being between 71 and 95. California reports winter wheat at 76, Ohio 71, Iowa 95.

We publish the report of Adjutant General Bingham, of which we made mention yesterday, this morning in full. It makes public further discoveries of fraud in the Militia Certificates of Indebtedness by the late Acting Pay Master General;—adds \$200,000 to the enormous volume of illegally uttered, fraudulent and unauthorized scrip with which unprincipled sharpers may victimize an unwary public. Since the first discovery of the issue of these fraudulent certificates we have been looking patiently for some step or other on the part of the authorities of the State to protect the public against imposition by their sale or transfer for value, and towards bringing all persons implicated in their issue to justice. As yet we have seen no move by either the executive or any of his subordinates in that direction. We think it high time, if any good is to result from General Bingham's investigation, that steps of this kind were taken. The certificates ought to be recovered and cancelled. It is useless for officers to aver their inability or want of authority to act in the premises. The Convention is at hand to confer authority to act if it does not exist. Certainly no monstrous abuse of such a character should continue unchecked and uncorrected.

#### OUR FINANCES.

From the reports of the various banks of the city, showing their condition, respectively, on the first of the month, we compile the following statement of

##### THE BANKING CAPITAL OF THE CITY:

Capital stock paid in.....	\$153,476.00
National bank notes.....	112,500.00
Surplus and profits.....	62,907.65
Time and demand deposits.....	76,130.65
Individual deposits.....	234,089.00
	\$639,097.30

##### INVESTMENTS.

United States bonds.....	\$125,000.00
Premiums paid.....	11,806.25
Real estate, furniture, etc.,	8,796.69
Other stocks, etc.....	13,567.90
Expense account.....	9,446.95
Redemption fund U. S. T.ry.	5,825.00
Cash due from reserve agts	49,523.10
Cash due from other banks.	24,891.53
Cash, legal tender notes....	31,307.00
Cash, other items.....	35,290.50
Loans and discounts.....	333,839.38
	\$639,097.30

By this statement, in an aggregate form, of the banking capital of the city on the first of July, amounting to \$639,097.30, it will be seen that over half, \$333,839.38, was invested in loans and discounts, individual paper and State warrants, in what proportion we do not know; \$136,806.35 in United States bonds and premiums; \$13,567.90 in other stocks, with \$130,911.53 available cash, and \$23,972.24 other unproductive investments. On the whole it will be found a useful study, and to demonstrate that the financial status of the city is remarkably sound and propitious.

Many of our citizens are yielding up all hope, energy and activity to the general depression that prevails the country. They despair of a restoration of former values, or of again seeing the time when property of any kind will command a remunerative price. Farms for which fifty dollars an acre was refused a few years ago will not sell to-day for three—farms that are every whit as valuable, better improved and more accessible to market. Manufacturing industries that a short time since were a fortune in themselves are to-day utterly worthless. Occupations that commanded munificent returns are entirely gone and destroyed. There is prostration everywhere, prosperity nowhere; upathy everywhere, energy and activity nowhere, as of old. Throughout the country to-day the struggle is for bread. All other anxieties and ambitions are absorbed in that alone. The idea of accumulating is foreign to almost every thought in the minds of the masses. If they save what they have and earn a livelihood they are considered fortunate. This is discouraging to the last degree, and the eager question of every honest heart is, must such a state of things continue? And how long? Where and what is the remedy? Politicians have a ready answer. But it fails in satisfying the people. It is useless to tell them that more money would furnish the remedy so long as in the great money centers of the country it goes a begging at two per cent. per annum for its use. Some wiser physician than the ordinary politician is needed in making the discovery of a pan-

acea for these ills. Indeed it sometimes appears that the hand of providence alone can bring relief and restore prosperity, and then only by a mighty miracle. In the meantime we watch and wait.

#### EXTORTION BY LAW.

To Whom it May Concern:

In order to save a large amount of correspondence, I desire to say through the columns of the JOURNAL to those who paid "commutation taxes" under the laws of 1863:

1. That a memorial reciting the facts and containing fair and full references to the law of the case, has been presented to proper committees at two different sessions of the General Assembly, and more recently to the Constitutional Convention.

2. That these bodies have refused to take any action upon the matter at all; and have uniformly sought to kill the measure in committee for the purpose of preventing any fair discussion of it, and for the purpose of preventing it from acquiring any publicity.

3. The reason for this course of action on the part of the General Assembly has been (I believe) to keep the public press from discussing the question, to keep public attention from being directed to it; and to "squell" all propositions looking to the restitution of your stolen money until after a "Ring" might be organized and proper arrangements made for "the division of the spoils" between yourselves and your "honorable" legislators. If there is any other valid reason for said action than this I have not been able to discover it.

4. No competent person who has ever examined the subject has any doubt of your complete legal and equitable right and title to recover the money extorted from you as "commutation taxes."

5. The plea of "Retrenchment and Reform" put up by many members of the General Assembly as an excuse for refusal to aid you in getting justice from the State, is merely a lie on its face. The same set that used it passed "The Eads' Bill," "The Hannibal & St. Joe. Bond Bill," "The Niedner Bill"; and others, not one of which possessed a tithe of the legal or equitable merit of your claims for your own money which was grabbed by the State.

6. That the action of the General Assembly in persistently violating their oaths of office by refusing to organize a court in which claims against the State might be adjudicated as the constitution required them to do, and in contumaciously asserting and exercising judicial functions in regard to all such debts, conclusively proves that the legislature has retained its usurped power to pass upon such claims only for the sake of what the venal members of that body can make out of such claims when presented. The unconstitutional and dishonorable exercise of judicial functions by the General Assembly is the very life-blood of its infamous lobby; and there is no use in lying or whining about it on the part of any member of that body.

7. Your Constitutional Convention seems so far disposed to follow in the footsteps of the General Assembly, and to leave the legislature in possession of the power to sit as a judge and jury, taking testimony and allowing "claims against the State," and thus keeping open the door for fraud and corruption, instead of passing an organic act for the creation of a court for the adjudication of such claims, as honesty, and even decency, would require it to do.

8. That so far as the collection of any debt which Missouri owes to a citizen is concerned, "the justice of the State" is a vendible commodity; it is trafficked for between the members of the House and the members of the lobby, in dram-shops and back-rooms every winter; it is exposed for sale in the lobby; and any citizen who presents an honest "claim against the State," relying upon the merits of his claim alone without the aid of a "slush-fund" wherewith to buy justice, is regarded as an ass by your "honorable" representatives, and is sure to be "snubbed" by even the silliest and softest-hearted cub among them, if he has been "a member" long enough to learn the practice of larceny under the name of "legislation," and the true intent and meaning of the exercise of judicial functions by the State legislature; and it is a lesson quickly learned.

9. That this disgraceful condition of things does not of course mean that all of the members of the legislature are venal and dishonest; it only means the familiar fact that honest men will differ, and that whenever they shall have divided upon any proposition involving the adjudication of a debt, there are enough of the venal kind, who appreciate no argument except "Greenbacks," to carry the question either way, and these people remain "undecided" until they are "seen" by somebody belonging to the lobby.

10. This infamy attaches to no particular party as such; it will continue and thrive so long as the General Assembly continues to usurp and exercise judicial functions as to debt due by the State.

11. That if the State of Missouri owed God on a contract, she would not pay the debt unless the apostles should appear in the lobby with a bribe in their hands.

12. That there are two courses left by which it may be possible to recover the money of which the State jay-hawked you. The first and most honorable would be to make the payment of your claim an issue in the next election, and handle the thirty or forty thousand votes which you can control so as to defeat every candidate who refuses to give proper pledges in the premises. The other course would be to contribute a certain per centage of your claims in order to raise a fund wherewith to buy the next General Assembly. From the best information I can get by two years of close and quiet observation, I suppose that the vendible votes necessary for your purpose would cost you about two per cent. on the face value of your receipts. You will have no difficulty in finding competent agents to make the purchase for you. I am not in.

13. I state these facts [however degrading to the pride of Missourians they may be] simply to inform the large number of citizens who placed their "commutation tax receipts" in my hands for collection of the reason why they have not been collected. If the facts stated have any political significance I am not aware of it. Hoping the convention might give some fair and manly consideration to the questions involved, I presented to that body, through Mr. Roberts, of Buchanan, a memorial setting forth the law and the facts upon which your claims rest. This body referred the memorial to a judiciary committee, without reading it, in order to smother your right, although some of the delegates had sufficient information on the subject to know that not only a considerable amount of money, but also the honor of the State, is involved in the matter. I addressed a note to Washington Adams (whom these tax-payers aided in making a judge of the Supreme Court) the chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the Convention, which will be heard from I suppose—when (if ever) a "ring" hall have been organized and a lobby supplied with money to purchase for you some fair and decent regard for your rights. It is proper for you all to understand that your "representatives" care as much for your interests as they do for those of any other beasts of burden, and that any "claims" you may have against the State are fit subjects for jeers and laughter until you shall come home fereless—able to buy justice.

Very Respectfully,

NATHAN C. KOUNS.

#### A MAMMOTH PROJECT.

A letter in the Globe-Democrat of the 27th instant dated at Des Moines, Iowa, on the 26th professes to reveal the existence of a "gigantic combination or partnership" between Western Granges and British manufacturers by which they propose to establish "a direct trade or exchange with English producers or manufacturers," and thus, undermine and overthrow all Western manufacturing interests for the building up of their own. The combination or partnership is said to have assumed the form of an association to be known as the Mississippi Valley Trading Company. It is to have a capital of \$25,000,000. The association is to have two branches; one in each country, which is to have absolute control of the funds or stock that each subscribes. The English members of the company number 500,000, have 1,000 stores, 60 cotton spinning mills, 20 flouring mills, and a large number of manufactories, all of which are to be employed in manufacturing for the branch of the company in this country. In this country the association is to consist of Mississippi Valley Granges, to be employed in producing grain, wool, cotton, etc., for the English branch of the company. To what extent the graves of the West have entered into the combination does not appear.

In fact the whole story sounds like the product of a diseased imagination; of a distorted fancy excited by foolish fears. The impracticability of such a scheme is visible upon its face. Though in the desperation of British free-trade, there is no telling to what straits they are not driven, or to what extremities they will not resort to sustain their failing fortunes.

The scheme contemplates the establishment of British warehouses and British agencies in every Grange district in the West. It contemplates a direct interchange and exchange of the cotton, wool, wood, and other fabrics of English factories for the products of the Mississippi Valley. It contemplates supplying the farmers of this highly favored region with the cheap labor of Europe. It contemplates supplanting our citizen merchants with English commercial agencies and the subversion of every home industry of the West to the tyranny of the pauper labor of Great Britain. It contemplates oppression by the most gigantic and remorseless monopoly that ever ground a people to the earth.

As a means of the successful organization and execution of the scheme direct transportation is made essential. Through Eads' jetties this is to be accomplished.

Wild and extravagant as the proposition is, it still has its plausibilities. Its possibilities are at least enough to awaken the apprehensions of all whose welfare is involved in the manufacturing and remunerative labor interests of the country.

The following are some of the questions the English managers submit to the American Executive Committee. They are supposed to be designed to elicit information for a basis of operations:

4. State what English manufactures are used in your neighborhood, and where they are now purchased at wholesale; and give prices at retail and wholesale, if possible.

6. Do you think a well conducted company, with abundant capital, could constantly dispose of English goods so as to insure outward freight to the Mississippi?

9. What amount of British capital could be safely invested in your district, at what interest, and on what security?

12. Are there any persons in your district who could employ white form or any other servants and laborers, and, if so, at what wages?

13. Would neighborhoods club together and send for numbers of servants in one shipment, who could live near each other?

These queries appear harmless enough in themselves, and but for the dangerous object of them, as alleged, could not be condemned as mischievous.

#### KANSAS.

NEWTON, Ks., July 22, 1875.

After having suffered from drouth and chinch bugs and had the remainder of their crops taken by the locusts in 1874, and wintering, in part, on the bounty of neighboring States, there was never, perhaps, a happier set of farmers than are now those along the line of the A. T. & S. Fe R. R. Never had a farming community more occasion for rejoicing or thankfulness, than have the farmers in the Cottonwood and Arkansas valleys. Without exception, in field and garden, their crops so far as harvested, yield largely, and those that are growing could not look better. The threshers are now busy, and the prospect is, that most of the small grain will be fully secured without injury from wet weather, of which there has been more than the farmers desired to see during the last three weeks. For all the way up the Arkansas valley to the mountains, there have been heavy rains, and, in consequence, the Arkansas river, although within its banks, is higher than white settlers have ever before known it to be.

Wheat is already coming into market, and is selling at 75c. It is believed that it cannot remain at this low figure. Three grain warehouses have been erected here since the harvest, and a fourth is to be. The railroad is laying a switch track alongside. One of these houses will be occupied by Whiting & Co., of Lee's Summit, Mo., an indication that Kansas is to be the Egypt, this year, for that portion of Missouri.

Oats are now selling at 33c., but will be lower, probably 25c. All kinds of seasonable vegetables are now plenty. From wagons potatoes sell here at 60c., at retail 80c.; turnips 25 to 40c.

I learn that a flouring mill is being erected at Great Bend. Until the proposed mill has been erected at Larned—not likely to be done till next year—this will be the frontier mill along the line of this road in Kansas. Now there are flouring mills at all the principal towns along the Cottonwood and Arkansas valley to "the Bend," excepting this place—at Emporia, Cottonwood Falls, Florence, Peabody, Halstead, Hutchinson, Peace, and Great Bend. There are mills also at Ledgwich City (in this county) and Wichita, on the south branch of this road. And three mills are in course of erection on the Little Arkansas, besides the one already at Halstead, all within a few miles of the latter place. So Harvey county is not behind her neighbors.

The bridge across the Arkansas at Peace, Rice county, is finished; and the one at Larned is progressing, but not rapidly, owing to the high water. It will be crossable in a few weeks.

About thirty miles of track have been laid beyond Granada. It has already entered the country where crops are raised by irrigation, and where, I understand, the yield of wheat is good and corn and other crops are promising.

The effort of the K. P. R. R. Company to have the A. T. & S. Fe R. R. enjoined from extending its track from Las Animas to Pueblo, has failed. Therefore, as soon as the road has been completed to Las Animas—to be done August 15th—it will push right on to Pueblo, and probably reach there by the first of November, as the grading is mostly done.

One of the objects I have in view in spending my time in this region, is to avoid a humid and sultry atmosphere, but during the last two weeks I have not quite succeeded, as there has been about as much cloudy as clear weather, and frequent showers. And there has been less motion in the air than I have ever noticed here in the same length of time.

This morning I met a citizen who is always afflicted with asthma in a humid atmosphere, and for two or three weeks he has suffered severely, although during his residence here of over a year and a half he has, until recently, enjoyed almost perfect health. He left the State of New York, and afterwards northern Missouri, because his affliction unfitted him for business there. Perhaps he will have to move up one or two thousand feet higher, say to Dodge City or Granada. Another citizen here, similarly troubled, has occasionally to go to Granada to clear up his pipes. He goes up with a distressing whistle, stays a few days, and comes back comfortable and resumes his business. Just now he is all right. As a rule those afflicted with asthma, bronchitis or the incipient forms of phthisis, in the lower altitudes and a more humid atmosphere, are greatly improved by a residence here.

More anon.

ADAMS PEABODY.